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Literary Selections.

From the London Times.

SIR ISAAC NEWTON.

ave some "memoirs and character of mumpingly gone away with."

patient, and of the most fearful, eautious, tion. of all to a Frenchman, he had none of the sixteenth year, was jumping about in the bead or a little bit of mirror.

courtly Scotch bishop. Then he was "dirt." timacy with Vigani because the Italian sence of color, the same whiteness that it all!) felt sorely tempted when he saw, ran along from the house to the street than this—in a much more stringent sense too, who was about to set out on his a help to his fidelity to believe that the remounted, replied, "No, I will leave that the remounted han, perhaps, he ever contemplated. travels. continually talking about.

that he has discovered Sir Isaac in love. Sir Isaac in love !-- it is incredible-- it is But, in the second case, you may beare means of money-making. He recomimpossible. Fancy the sedate Lucusian the marks of the quarrell while you live, mends his young friend to inquire on the Professor addressing Lady Norris like if you outlive it at all." Here is a lily Continent about transmutation, these one of those fops called "pretty fellows," liver with a vengeance—dissuading his "being the most luciferous, and many whom Steele shortly afterwards saturized young friend from a quarrel on the ground, times luciferous experiments, too, in phi-In the Tatler. "Can you resolve to wear not of high Christian principle, but of un- losophy." a widow's habit perpetually?" he writes. manly fear. If the truth must be spoken, This letter, however, it must be restantly in the melancholy dress of a wid-

Toby's behavior to the Widow Wadman gave his consent, on condition that his pocket and offering it as a fee to a physical defy her. was the extreme of gallantry and licenname should be withheld. Great used to say that two-he might I able to acquire it and maintain it. It contact with his fellow-men, and put his riage, the gall of the victim was thrown ty on the slumbering world. love, sleep, and food. These three things cline." This appalling self-absorption is details of authorship and copyright which sons.

says Mumphrey Newton, "which made "I see I have made myself a slave to bution that Newton's corpuscular theory well for the old woman, his bed-maker, philosophy; but if I get free of Mr. Linus' of light has succumbed before the undulashe faring much the better for it, for in a business I will resolutely bid adieu to it tory theory defended by Huygens and The common idea of Newton is very morning she has sometimes found both eternally, excepting what I do for my Hooke; that his law of double refraction ographers, Pope expressed a desire to the old woman has very pleasantly and me." That sentence represents Sir Isaac that his theory of the inflexion of light

Latter characteristic the apocryphal story taste seems to have grown with him, for like a star, and dwelt apart." of the philosopher and his little dog "Dia- he was always very fond of a small roast- Dwelling thus apart, and viewing with Such was Newton as a man. Glorious

and he was not leveable, because he was blank. He had a perfect horror of poet-much." He was so far imposed upon and distinguished for its convenience and ry, and would have echoed the sentiment that he paid £4,000 for an estate in Wilt- the beauty of its situation, having many Bishop Burnet says that Newt-, had of his friend Barrow, that it is an ingen- shire worth only the half of that sum; he stately elm trees growing by the roadside the whitest soul he ever kne. We can jous kind of nonsense." He showed his was told that he might vacate his bargain near, and was thus well calculated to well believe it so. waton was utterly regard for sculptor when he said of his in equity, and he declined the trouble, tempt a troop of weary horsemen on a well believe it so.
unworldly, and is unworldliness of the unworldly, and is content to pace about his content to pace about his a lover of stone dolls." And his opinion Newton, I have seen a small pasteboard coolness of the shade and the hospitaliman who and his trim little garden from of painting expressed in an anecdote which box in his study set against the open winchare to night, save when he turned we do not profess to comprehend, but dow, no less, as one might suppose, than and his suite alighted, and after hitching out for half an hour to see if any body which, according to the interpretation 1,000 guineas in it, crowded edgeways, their borses under the trees, entered the would listen to him as Lucasian Professor, suggested by Sir David Brewster, implies whether this was suspicion or careless- house by invitation of Mr. Dexter and must have rather astonished the bustling, that he considered pictures nothing but ness I can not say; perhaps to try the fi-

thre was the sheet of white paper which by to pass it by in silence, or with a jest, of £6,000. At one period of his life Sir make it my rule, when visiting a place, another. With eager eyes he seizes the dear revenge; for in the first case your we might suppose, from one of the sen- them." Sir David Brewster has done his best credit's ne'er the worse when you return tences in the letter to Francis Aston, to prove the contrary. He even funcies into England, and come into other com- from which we have already quoted that pany that have not heard of the quarrell. he had thought of transmutation as a "Whether your lady-ship should go con- Newton was a coward. It is the most membered, was not written long before pw, or flourish once more among the la-was to face the public. He could never him some anxiety, and he was glad to dies"—that is the question, and that is bear publicity. This was partly the rethe style of courtship which Sir David, sult of a timid disposition which made him of the Royal Society. If ever he thought with his eyes open and all his brilliant shrink from criticism, but partly also it of money-making, it was only to pay his optical reputation, attributes to a philoso- was the result of a self-absorbed and unpher whose soul was fixed on one idea- sociable nature that was all in all to itself, lenses and oranges for his sister. He the increase of gravity inversely as the and felt no need of human sympathy. gave away his money without concern; square of the distance. Sir Isaac, we When, shortly after writing the above he was even offensive in his liberality, make bold to say, never had a thought of letter to Francis Aston, he was asked for and quarreled with persons who refused

proved the divinity of Sir Isaac, for he without a parallel in the history of the these controversies involve. But it is ever spent a thought on love, took very human mind. After having been em- impossible to pass without reprehension

to the life. All his pursuits were for his has been forgotten for Hooke's; and that him as a private man." The desire While speaking of food, we may men- own private satisfaction; he shunned man- his method of fluxions, which raised the might still be expressed. We have no tion, in passing, as a set-off to the nega- kind; and there is not one of his discov- greatest din of all, has been supplanted intimacy with Newton. Few persons, if tions of Newton's animal and emotional eries that would ever have been published by the deferential calculus of Leibnitz. asked to describe the character of the nature, his one physical enjoyment. He if it had not been dragged into the light For one thing in these controversies we man, could say no more than this-that liked fruit, and could eat any quantity of by his friends, while he looked on, frethe was exceedingly absent, and that he it. As a boy, we find him in his acting and muttering at the intrusion. Of was absurd, all generosity was forgotten was imperturbable almost to insipidity, count-books spending his money on cheraps quoting as an illustration of the ries, tarts, and marmalade. This latter never truly said of Milton, "His soul was frauds which disgraced his opponents,

ond." This is not much, and yet the ed quince for supper. He was as fond of singular apathy all that men most prize in his intellect, with a virty rather intelhalf of it is incorrect. The cotempora- orange peel as Dr. Johnson, and used to in public esteem and private sympathy, lectual than devotional, he was a stole ries of Newton describe him as anything take it boiled in water for his breakfast it was natural that Newton thould look without the merit of a stoic, for he had no but imperturable on certain occasions ... instead of tea. Apples, too, appear to with stoical contempt on all the objects of feelings to contend with. It is very sad-Locke declared that he was "a nice man have been a favorite fruit of his; one of human ambition. Love he needed not; dening to find that the two most splendid in himself suspicions where there is no der, and making great endeavors to se- despised wealth. Master of the mint, to men so deficient in their moral natures ground." Firm-teed always "found him cure some grafts of the genuine "red money had no charms for him. Specu- as Lord Bacon and Sir Isaac Newton. hisidious, ambitions, and excessively cov- streaks." Perhaps it was one of those lum metal, for his reflecting telescope, In the former we find a positive moral erous of praise and impatient of contra- favored "red streaks" that falling from was to him the most precious of metal. obliquity, which would awaken pity were the tree suggested the system of the world The bursting of a soap bubble, when pur- it not joined to so majestic an intellect Whiston describes him as equally im- -the universality of the law of gravita- suing his experiments on color, gave him that it excites terror and despair of human more concern than the loss of £20,000 on nature. In the latter we find simply a and su-picious temper that ever he knew. Other enjoyments Newton had none the bursting of the South Sea Bubble. vacuum—iron intellect on every side surcontent with Newton's being the greatest and amusements of his companions. We hint at the less. Sir Isaac thought more alize on the fact. We have simply entinsocial, he was reserved, he was absent, Goodwin stood by his bedside, assuring phers have regarded it as a proof of sin- When the cotemporaries of Newton hailed he was silent; in the course of five years him that his soul was safe, and Bates gular generosity. It was nothing of the him as a god, they declared, in very brilhis secretary, Humprey Newton, never went soft and sad from room to room; kind; it was no more generosity than is liant phrase, that he was not a man. saw him laugh but once, and that once it and the trees in St. James's Park were the act of the poor savage who gives is impossible to comprehend why; worst uprooted by the tempest, Newton, in his away inestimable treasures for a glass

delity of those about him."

broke an acquaintance of the greatest in-acter, we find everywhere the same ab-Humphrey (how vividly he remembers ed off a stone from one of the walls which chemist told him some loose story of a Bishop Burnet observed. One curious "as one might suppose"—for he was too outside of the rows of trees. Washingnun. Bishop Former's remark, however, specimen of it is presented in a letter of honest to count them—"no less than 1,000 ton remarked to him that he had better is true in a much more stringent sense advice to his young friend, Francis As- guineas' "crowded edgeways," and it was replace the stone. The officer, having trial was intended by his master—his for somebody else to do." Washington trial was invisible. He knew the ex-Newton had the whitest stell he ever "If you are affronted," wrote the phihad the whitest stell he ever "If you are affronted," wrote the phihad the whitest stell he ever "If you are affronted," wrote the phihad the whitest stell he ever "If you are affronted," wrote the phihad the whitest stell he ever "If you are affronted," wrote the phihad the whitest stell he ever "If you are affronted," wrote the phihad the whitest stell he ever "If you are affronted," wrote the phihad the whitest stell he ever "If you are affronted," wrote the phihad the whitest stell he ever "If you are affronted," wrote the phihad the whitest stell he ever "If you are affronted," wrote the phihad the whitest stell he ever "If you are affronted," wrote the phihad the whitest stell he ever "If you are affronted," wrote the phihad the whitest stell he ever "If you are affronted," wrote the phihad the whitest stell he ever "If you are affronted," wrote the phihad the whitest stell he ever "If you are affronted," wrote the phihad the whitest stell he ever "If you are affronted," wrote the phihad the whitest stell he ever "If you are affronted," wrote the phihad the whitest stell he ever "If you are affronted," wrote the phihad the whitest stell he ever "If you are affronted," wrote the phihad the whitest stell he ever "If you are affronted," wrote the phihad the whitest stell he ever "If you are affronted," wrote the phihad the whitest stell he ever "If you are affronted," wrote the phihad the whitest stell he ever "If you are affronted," wrote the phihad the whitest stell he ever "If you are affronted," wrote the phihad the whitest stell he ever "If you are affronted," wrote the phihad the whitest stell he ever "If you are affronted," wrote the phihad the whitest stell he ever "If you are affronted," wrote the phihad the whitest stell he ever "If you are affronted," wrote the phihad the whitest stell he ever "If you are affronted," wrote the phihad the whitest stell he ever "If you knew, simply because his emotional na- losopher, "it is better in a forraine count- Mint, a duchess all in vain offered a bribe

cian like Cheselden !

kept neither dog nor cat in his chamber," he writes as follows to one of his friends; neitz and Flamsteed. It is a just retri-Bernoulli, Leibnitz, and Wolf.

party came out to remount their horses, pure as a child; his niece tells us that he As we look farther into Newton's char- It was certainly carelessness; but poor one of the gentlemen accidentally knock-

to sell himself for stove pipe.

fittle sleep, and as for his dinner, he nev- broiled is a trifling optical discussion with the unfairness with which Newton treated par with a frozen potato, and one is worth populous city, already teeming with life be bearable." er cared for it and often never ate it. "He a Dutch physician of the name of Linus, his opponents Huygens and Hooke, Leib- just about as much as the other.

ciently mysterious and unintelligible.- and full orbed.

sun's and that this point of crossing was forts with triumphant victory. in some way immediately connected with and sur-pictors reinper that ever he knew.

1) Alembert gives the French idea of him Which were not purely intellectual. Even His indifference was extended to his latest rounding and maintaining the tremendous determines to watch and learn whether grand, more beautiful. It is, to me, the ruts, which I actually measured, four feet D'Alembert gives the French idea of him when he says: "In England people were when he says: "In England people were as a boy he never joined in the games biographer, who has not condescended to gap within. We have no desire to morther the moon, in each successive revolution: proudest victory that genius ever weat.—

| Grand, more beautiful. | Fresh idea of him proudest victory that genius ever weat.—| Grand, more beautiful. | Grand, more beau crossed the sun's path at a different point. It was the conquering of Nature, of Ig- wet summer. What therefore must it be genius of his age; in France one would find him making dials, and water-clocks, of a lens and a prism than of all the ingenius of his age; in France one would find him making dais, and water-cocks, of a tens and a prism tight of an tens and a prism tight of an tens and a prism tight of a tens and a tens and a tens and a tens are to tens a ten Newton was really unanniable, it was great storm of 1658, when Cromwell was Amsterdam. He parted with his money possible good can result from the fulsome his journey among the stars, it is found single man. And now, do you demand the memory." Newton was really unamable, it was great storing 1995, when Cromwell and Same and Sa year to year, and from century to centu- what a lesson of the instability of earthly riers over such routes is, now-a-days, inry, with undeviating precision. But it fame are we taught in this simple recital. credible. The postman from Selkirk to was soon discovered that it was far differ- He who had raised himself immeasura- Edinburgh, a distance of less than forty ent with the moon. In case she, too, bly above his race, who must have been miles, was always a fortnight in going could leave behind her a silver thread of regarded by his fellows as little less than and returning. We are told that the Towards the fall of the year 1775, light, sweeping round the heavens, in a god; who had inscribed his fame on the massacre of the Jews in London, at the graces—could not, like Fontenelle, begin gale to measure the force of the wind. What cared he for wealth? He had Gen. Washington and staff visited Chela treatise on astronomy by saluting a lady In more advanced years his amusements no interest in human life, he had no sub- sea on horseback to view the features of would not join, but would wind around sun, with a "pen of iron, and the point of known at Stamford, Norwich, or York, and comparing the beauty of day to a were still more severe. When weary of lunary pleasures which money could purt the land thereabouts. They went from among the stars in each revolution, cross- a diamond;" even this one has perished until several months had elapsed. Even blonde and the beauty of night to a bruhis other studies, the differential calculus chase, except pippins and red streaks. the camp in Cambridge, through Meding the sun's fiery track at a point west from the earth; name, age, country, all as late as 1835, there were only seven nette. The only qualities in Newton and the irregularities of the moon, he He gave it away to anybody who asked ford and Malden, and stopped by the way of the previous crossing. These points are swept into oblivion; but the proud coaches that ran daily from the capital of that were positively unamiable were his "refreshed himself" with chronology and for it. In one of his absent fits he had for rest and refreshment at the residence of crossing were called the moon's nodes. achievement stands. The monument England to that of Seotland, and until suspicious temper and his impatience of all the dry details of lustrums, Olympi- his pocket picked of more than £3,000, of Mr. John Dexter, situated in Malden.

At each revolution, the node occurred reared to his honor stands; and although several years within the present century, contradiction. All else was negative, ads, and the expedition of the Argonauts. and suspected a nephew of the celebrated by the brook, just before you enter the further west, until, after a cycle of about the touch of Time has effaced the letter-With such prising that we return to non-negative exception of his piety and his veracity.

With such prising that we return to non-negative the internal transport of nearly all the internal transp exception of his piety and his veracity. Prising that we return to negretary and when calculated in the He was good because he was passionless; say that his aesthetical nature was utterly how much he had lost, only replied; "Too house was fifteen rods from the street, to Tong and patiently around the eclip-

himself, saying, as he did so, "I always and from one crossing of the celiptic to

drive back the bolts.

and activity. The busy morning hum Sudden and recent as this improve- that an earnest purpose finds time-

watching place of the solitary astrono- to realize fully the greatness of the mer. The thousands below him, uncon- change that has taken place. Not only To those who have given but little at- scious of his intense anxiety, joyously were our ancestors without the means of tention to the subject, even in our own pursue their rounds of business their cy- rapid transit from point to point, a contu-The common idea of Newton is very morning she has sometimes found out to point, a continuous of modern science, that his day, with all the aids of modern science, cles of amusements. The sun slowly ry ago, but such facilities as they possessing. the prediction of an eclipse seems suffi- climbs the heavens, round and bright, ed were rendered nearly useless, by the

not destroy the fruits of his victory.

discovery. He holds the key which he es the sun's decay. A thousand years miles the hour. believes will unlock the dread mystery; roll heavily away; once more the astron- In our own country, quite as marked and now, with redoubled energy, he re- omer writes, from amidst the gay throng changes have taken place, within the solves to thrust it into the wards, and that crowds the capital of Europe. Rec- same period. How queer it sounds, to in the act of crossing from one side to was observing for one, who, after a lapse way between the two extremes, and

the metaphysicians of that period were though with some dishonor, then to en- Isaac gave some study to alchemy, and to leave things in as good order as I find to leave things in a good order as I find to leave things in a good order as I find to leave things in a good order as I find to leave things in a good order as I find to leave things in a good order as I find to leave things in a good order as I find to leave things in a good order as I find to leave things in a good order as I find to leave things in a good order as I find to leave things in a good order as I find to leave things in a good order as I find to leave things in a good order as I find to leave things in a good order as I find to leave things in a good order as I find to leave things in a good order as I find to leave things in a good order as I find to leave things in a good order as I find to leave thi and rapidly computes where she crosses can Review calls attention to the curious town, Conn.: "Looking into the almanac This incident was related to us by Cap- at her next change. He finds the new fact, that while in the fine arts and in I am startled. Supreme Court at Ioslain Richard Dexter, who was a witness moon occurring far from the sun's track; speculative thought, our remotest ances- wich on the 18th day of June. I thought of the facts related, and at the time about he looks around another revolution; the tors are still our masters, in science and it was a week later, 25th; so that I have nineteen years of age.—Bunker Hill Au- place of the new moon falls closer to the its applications the order of precedence only next week to go home, one hundred sun's path, and the next year closer, un- is reversed, and our own age has been and fifty miles. I must improve every til, reaching forward with piercing intel- more prolific and amazing than the ag- moment. It is twenty-five miles a day, it A Virginia Postmaster has been lectual vigor, he at last finds a new moon gregate of all the ages which have gone I ride every day next week." Think of inquiring of the Department the meaning which occurs precisely at the computed before us. "It is not likely," he observes, such a man as John Adams being startled of the little "picture stuck on the letters;" time of the passage across the sum's track. "that the world will ever see a more perand another official, in Iowa, desired the Here he makes a stand, and on the day feet poet than Homer, a grander states-travel a hundred and fifty miles! But Department to sustain him in a decision of the occurrence of that new moon, he man than Pericles, a sublimer or more there was nothing strange about it in he had recently made against a "fellow" announces to the startled inhabitants of comprehensive philosopher than Plato, a those days. For years, after the beginwho insisted that them pictures of the world, that the sun shall expire in sculptor equal to Phidias, a painter supering of the present century, the mail time Washington, on the letters, paid the pos- dark eclipse. Bold prediction !- Mysterior to Raphael. Certain it is, that the between New York and Albany was 8 rious prophet! With what scorn must lapse of twenty, or five-and-twenty centhe unthinking world have received this turies, has given birth to none who have ley, only twenty years ago, were some-(a) An editor in Iowa has become so solemn declaration? How slowly do the surpassed them, and to few who have aphollow from depending upon the printing business alone for bread, that he proposes anxiety does the stern philosopher await arts of life, all this is reversed. "Take written by a lady, within the memory of the coming of that day which should two points only, the most obvious and the middle-aged persons, to describe a perilcrown him with victory, or dash him to most signal-locomotion and the trans-Let misfortune do her worst, the ground in ruin or disgrace! Time to mission of intelligence. At the earliest New York. Similar instances might be permission to publish one of his papers his purse. Think of Sir Isaac taking a if she bring not the conclousness of crime him moves on leaden wings; day after period of authentic history, men traveled adduced without end, in illustration of the In comparison with Newton, Uncle in the Philosophical Transactions, he handful of guineas at random out of his or dishonor to her aid, her victim may day, and, at last, hour after hour, roll as fast as in the year 1830. Nimrod got surprising improvements which have been heavily. The last night is gone—the over the ground at the rate of tea or made in the means of locomotion, within tiousness. It must be remembered that "For I see not," he writes, "what We have not said anything of the con-Newton was a god, and Alexander the there is desirable in public esteem, were troversies which brought Newton into fered to Juno, who presided over mar- dawn of the eventful day breaks in beau- we raised the maximum of speed from have said three—things reminded him would, perhaps, increase my acquaintance manliness to the test; and we must leave behind the altar, to show that no such that ten miles to seventy. The first six thou- Wito SAID IT .- We do not know who the sun as he rises and mounts the heav-reached the limits of possible achievement ens, scattering brightness and glory in in this direction; for no one imagines that A frozen heart is precisely upon a his path. Beneath him is spread out the any greater speed is attainable, or would

How, then, it was possible; thousands of The tenant of the mountain, too, nl- the exception of a few military roads, years ago, to accomplish this same great most begins to waver in the steruness of there were no channels of communicaobject, without any just views of the his faith, as the morning hours roll away. tion between distant places, save by wastructure of the system, seems utterly in- But the time of his triumph, long delay- ter. Such roads as they had were imcredible. Follow me, then, while I at- ed, at length begins to dawn—a pale and practicable, and the constant recurrence empt to reveal the reasoning which led sickly hue creeps over the face of nature. of desolating wars diverted the minds of to the prediction of the first eclipse of The sun has reached its highest point, both princes and people from this most the sun, the most daring prophecy ever but his splendor is dimmed; his light is important element of civilization. Armade by human genius. Follow, in imfeeble. At last it comes! Blackness is thur Toung, who traveled in Lancashive agination, this bold interrogator of the cating away his round disc; onward, with England, in 1770, has incidentally given skies to his solitary mountain summit slow but steady pace, the dark veil moves, an account of the state of one of these withdrawn from the world-surrounded lineher than a thou-and nights; the gloom roads at that time, and his description by his mysterious circles, there to watch deepens: the ghastly hue of death cov- will answer for many other roads, both of and ponder through the long nights of ers the universe; the last ray is gone, England and the continent. Our own many, many years. But hope cheers and horror reigns. A wail of terror fills country was scarcely born, and of course him on, and smooths his rugged pathway. the murky air; the clangor of brazen had no roads of any extent. Young Locke declared that he was "a face man to deal with," but "a little too apt to raise honor he sought not; above all things he names which science can boast of belong Dark and deep as is the problem, he trumpets resounds; an agony of despair says: "I know not in the whole range of sternly grapples with it, and resolves dashes the stricken millions to the ground. Imguage, terms sufficiently expressive to never to give over till victory crowns his while that lone man, erect on his rocky describe this infernal road. Let me most summit, with arms outstretched to heav- seriously caution all travelers who may He has already remarked that the en, pours forth the grateful gushing of accidentally propose to travel this terrimoon's track in the heavens crossed the his heart to God, who had crowned his ef-Search the records of our race, and break their necks or limbs by overthrows the coming of the dread eclipse. He point me, if you can, to a scene more or breaking down. They will meet with

> tic. Long and patiently did the astrone- A thousand years roll by; the astrone- enormous expense. The charge for carmer watch and wait; each eclipse is du- omer stands on the watch-tower of Bab- riage averaged about thirty cents a ton, ly observed, and its attendant circum- ylon, and writes for posterity the records per mile. Of course, all bulky articles stances are recorded, when, at last, the of an eclipse; this record escapes de- were excluded from exchange. These darkness begins to give way, and a ray of struction, and is safely wafted down the articles are now carried over the same light breaks upon his mind. He finds stream of time. A thousand years roll ground, the same distance, at the rate of that no eclipse of the sun ever occurs, un- away; the old astronomer, surrounded two cents per ton. The speed of the less the new moon is in the act of cross- by the fierce but wondering Arabs, again wagons, then, did not exceed twenty-four ing the sun's track. Here was a grand writes and marks the day which witness- miles a day; steam cars now run thirty

> ord is compared with record, date with read that when Franklin, in 1754, pro-To predict an eclipse of the sun, he date, revolution with revolution, the past jected a plan of union for these colonies, must sweep forward from new moon to and the present together; another strug- with Philadelphia as the metropolis, he new moon, until he finds some new moon gle commences; another triumph is won. gave as a reason for this part of the plan, which should occur while the moon was Little did the Babylonian dream that he that Philadelphia was situated about half Now, the journey may be made in less than twice as many hours. On the 8th of June, 1771, John Adams made the a quarter of a century .- New England

> > more hearing than eyesight."

EF It is asked, how can the laboring man find time for self-culture? I answer,